The Dark Room

It’s Friday, May 10th, 1944 and it's currently 12:50 pm. I could only know or remember the exact date and time but couldn’t seem to remember where I was. All I knew was that I was in this freezing small room with pitch black walls and a tall door. I stood up, I felt dizzy, nauseous, and I had a horrible headache. “I'm freezing” I was only wearing shorts and a tee shirt. I tried looking for anything that could help me like clues or stuff that could tell me where I was at. After looking around I saw a tiny handle on the wooden floor. It looked like there was a basement or some sort of a secret room under the room I was in. I pulled on the handle to see if it opened, After a while of struggling I got it to open. All I saw was these old broken dusty stairs leading down somewhere dark, darker than the room I was already in. I was scared but I decided to go down anyway, I took a step down, “AHHHH” I screamed while tumbling down the steps at a very high speed.”owch” Once I got to the bottom I was trying to find any type of light switch or any sort of light. I found a light switch and I turned it on. “Wow, What is this place?” I said to myself. It was a small room with a mattress, blanket, pillow, and a big brown box on top of it. It looked like someone was living here before but I wasn't sure, Someone probably must have been in the same situation as me and stayed here. I wonder who, I wonder if they're still somewhere here. I walked toward the box and opened it. There was a note. “**You’ve time traveled to Italy 1944, you will need to survive all the things that are going to happen here are some stuff you will need to survive**.” I read. “WHAT FRANCE? Why am I this far from home and who signed me up for this because I didn’t!” I then checked the box to see what I would survive with. There was a big backpack with canned and preserved food, water, a knife, rope, medicine,

bandages, bullets, a gun, tools, clothing, a blanket, a flashlight, batteries, and gloves. I grabbed the note and the other stuff then a kea fell out, ”I must not have seen it” I quickly took the kea upstairs to try to see if it was for the tall door upstairs. “It worked! I'm finally out of this old smelly place” I walked out and saw a long alley. I didn't know if I was in any danger so I walked slowly out of the room. There was lots of trash,dusty and it was dirty everywhere. “I need to get out of this place” I kept on walking toward the end of the alley, then I saw the famous Eiffel Tower, “how did people even build that thing?". There were barely any people. It was so empty and abandoned but I didn't know why. My stomach growls “I sure can eat a horse right now”, I checked my bag to see if I had something edible, A loaf of bread, jam, spam, and canned peas. I took out the jam and bread and spread the jam onto the bread “I guess this will do”. After a while of doing nothing, it started getting dark out and I still hadn’t found some place to sleep. The more I walked around the more empty It got. I then saw some people going crazy, running in their homes. I was so confused as to why they were doing that until I bumped into this guy “ I'm so sorry please forgive me” “ It's fine what are you doing out it's dangerous you know” “What are you talking about?” I asked. “The war?” “What do you mean you don't know what I'm talking about everyone knows that we’re in the middle of ww2!” “A war what do you mean a WAR! I don't even have somewhere to sleep " “ well, you could stay with me but you would have to sleep on the couch ""Seriously sir??” “Yeah, I'm Alex by the way” “ Thank you so much Alex, I'm Ella ” “Common now hurry we don’t want to get killed” I took my stuff and ran. I didn't know where I was going or if he was just a creep trying to kidnap me and I was in danger but I still followed anyway. We finally stopped. “We're here, common hurry come in!” I was panting “This is my son Tommi’s He is 11” “Hi Tommi’s” “Tommis this is Ella,” said Alex.

“I'll be back. I'm going to prepare some things.” Tommis stared at me with a displeasing look on his face. “Who are you, why are you in my home?” Tommis asked in a very annoying voice. I didn’t know how to respond. How was I supposed to tell him that I traveled back in time all the way from 2024 in San Diego?, How is that even believable? “Umm well, I just -” “I'm back Tommis time for you to go to bed” “Thank god” I whispered relieved to myself even though I had to tell them the truth someday. “Well here's a blanket, and pillow” “Thank you again for letting me stay the night” “No problem, hey why were you out there anyway with nowhere to stay?” “ Umm it's kind of a long and complicated story and I'm just really exhausted so I'll tell you tomorrow” “Oh okay good night then if anything happens just call my name” “Okay…" I couldn’t tell if I should worry or not. 1:25 am. I woke up to a gun sound but everyone still stayed asleep. It was like they were used to it. I then kept on hearing footsteps as if they were coming down the stairs. I woke up and saw a shadow in the hallway. I didn't know who it was but I was terrified. There was a shadow that kept on coming towards me, then it started looking like a little boy. I turned on the lights. “Tommis? What are you doing up so late?" "I can't sleep." "Tommi’s, can I ask you something?” “I guess” “ Have you ever woken up in a dark room before?” “don’t think so or remember why?” “I don't know it's just something I wanted to ask you that's it” “You never told me how you got here and why you didn't have anywhere to stay” “Look this might seem crazy but I somehow woke up yesterday in this dark room it had a secret room under the room I had woken up in and found survival stuff, a kea, and a note. The note said I had traveled all the way from San Diego in 2024 to where I'm now in France 1944. Then the kea led me out to an alley and that's where I bumped into your dad and he helped me out and told me about WW2 and now I'm here”. I couldn’t believe I told him that!. "Wait 2024, but it's 1944 that's like 88 years away, how is that even possible!” “I know

right, I’m pretty sure I time-traveled back to 1944 but I’m not sure I can’t remember much.” Tommis face looked like he was terrified and satisfied at the same time. "Does that mean you're from the future then?” “I think?” Tommis looked familiar, almost as if I’d seen him before I just didn’t know where. “Hey you look familiar, I feel like I’ve seen you before” “No I don’t, how can that even be possible” he was right, how could I have seen him somewhere that would be impossible. “You're right” I know he was right but I still felt like I’d seen him somewhere. I know it, I just need to do some more digging. “Tommis you should go back to bed it’s late” “FINE” I go back to bed. The house starts to shake, the light bulbs buzz while turning on and off, stuff dives towards the ground, pipes rattle as they get louder and louder. “Alex!” I yelled. Tomis and Alex quickly came down.”Hurry, Follow me” I grabbed my stuff and followed. We all went into this hidden room with a sturdy table and went under it. Why aren’t we under the other table that’s in the dining room? “ it’s safer here, you never know who’s going to enter or if someone will shoot us by accident, I mean we’re in the middle of a war it’s never safe and if someone comes in they wouldn’t find us” “BOOM” noises of bombs and guns and the sound of people angry and sad. “Dad I’m scared” “we’re going to be okay don’t worry, just stay quiet” I felt like I was going to puke all over the place because of how scared I was. “Are you sure we're going to be okay?” “yes just do whatever I say” responded Alex. Alex then stood up I didn't know what he was thinking. “What are you doing stay here!” “I have to save the others who need my help, I'll be back, don't worry just stay here and don't move” I didn’t have any choice but to stay here and let him go. Minutes past “Is he going to come back it's been a while” Tommi’s said in a quavering voice. “ Stay calm, I'm sure he’ll be back in no time” I tried comforting Tommis but then 20 minutes passed and I started getting worried too. I wasn’t sure if I should go look for him since that would be a big risk. “BOOM, BOOM” The more guns, and bombs I heard the more

scared and worried I would get but I also knew that this is the time I had to take a big risk “Tommis come with me hold my hand and don’t let go” I loaded up the gun and got everything ready, we got up, I grabbed my bag and headed to the door. I opened the door slightly to see if I could see Alex from an angle. We walked around until “OH MY GOD!” I yelled as I saw Alex lying on the ground with blood all around me. “Dad Dad wake up please,” Tommis said crying in tears as he sat next to him. I didn’t know what to do at the time I felt horrible for Tommis, I shouldn’t have let Alex leave. I ran back into the house and called the ambulance with the telephone. I then tried pouring water on Alex but nothing worked. The ambulance then took him, I tried comforting him but didn't know what to do. After a couple of hours, tommis calmed down. “I can’t believe I just lost the person I only had left” “Well whatever happened to your mom” “My mom has been missing ever since last week” “Missing?” “Yeah” I felt horrible for this kid. I can't imagine not having parents. Tomis then grabs a photo from his pocket, it's his mother but she looks so familiar. “Wait, that is my great great grandmother,” I said in shock, I couldn’t believe my great great grandmother was Tommis mother. “I have the same photo back home” “Wait so does that mean I'm your great grandfather then?” “ yes” “ common quick we need to find your mom” We looked, We looked, We looked but we couldn’t find anything. We stopped. “Are you hungry?” “Yes, I'm starving,” Tommis responded. I got out the loaf of bread, spam, and pees and made a sandwich. “Ella I'm tired” “Let's head back” Okay” we walked back home but something unexpected happened. The house was all burned down. “Where are we going to sleep?” “I know where” We went to the darkroom I had woken up in. I opened my bag, took the blanket out, and placed it on Tommis “Sleep well” I tried staying up so I could ensure we were safe but it was impossible. I only lasted 2 hrs awake instead of the whole night. 6:00 am I woke up frightened. I checked if Tommis was still there. “Thank god” “Tommi's wake up

we have to find your mother. “Uhuh,” he said. I checked my bag for new clothes and found jeans and 2 shirts. I gave a shirt to Tommis and the other to me to wear. Once we got ready I took out the bread and jelly and started eating breakfast. “Common let's go find my mom Ella!” “coming” I responded. After a while of looking around and trying to survive, we then found something “Wait. That’s my mom's necklace that my dad had given her as a gift” Tomis had said that the necklace belonged to his mom and was the same one she had in the picture, The necklace was in front of a big sketchy house. “That means there's a possibility she's not far from here” We knocked on the door to see if the owner had seen her. “What do you want?” the old man said. He looked like he was in his 60s and had a huge beard and glasses. His house inside was dark so we couldn’t tell if there was anything. The man seemed suspicious so I had to make up a lie to be able to enter his house. “ hello sir I clean bathrooms for free do you want your bathroom cleaned” “ Only the bathroom?” the man asked suspiciously. “Yes,” I responded. “Okay then just don't go anywhere else, only stay in my bathroom. “Yes sir” Once we walked in he led us straight to the bathroom upstairs but there was a door labeled (basement do not enter) which I found suspicious. “Stay here, I'll be back in 20,” the man said. “Yes of course,” I responded. Once he left I quickly and silently tried opening the basement door “it's open!” We went down and there was another door but that door was locked. I tried looking for any kind of kea until I had an idea. “A bobby pin" I took the bobby pin out of my hair and used it to unlock the door. It took a while but I finally got it to open. “Yes finally” I opened the door slightly and I saw a woman lying down on a mattress. “Mother,” Tomis said. “Tomis?” the lady responded. “Oh my, mama I missed you so much” “Shhh be quiet we don't want the man to hear us.” “right” “How did you guys get in?" she asked. "I lied that I was a cleaning lady and used the bobby pin I had in my hair to open this door”. It was weird seeing my great great grandma in person since I’ve only

seen her in pictures and I'm pretty sure she didn't even know I existed". "Thank you for taking care of him for me" We all silently got out while holding the gun up just in case. "Hey, what are you doing up there?" yelled the old man. We all went downstairs "Don't move!" I yelled while holding up a gun and running out of the creepy old house. "Thank you again for helping me with everything" " No problem" I responded. "Where's Alex?" I wasn't sure how to tell her but I knew I had to. "Alex recently died, we weren't sure what happened but he decided to risk his life and help other people but never came back and was found dead" "What that can't be true right tommis?" "Mama it's true" his mom started to cry.. "I'm so sorry," I said, hoping it helped her.

After a long time of crying, I started feeling nauseous and dizzy like how I felt when I had woken up in the dark room. All of a sudden I see the world spinning and fall to the ground. I kept on hearing Voices "Oh no, is she okay!" "Ella ?".

It's Monday, 5:50 pm but this time I was in my room and it was 2024. "Am I back!" I wasn't sure I was home until I saw my mom walking in. " good morning honey" " mom I missed you" "Me too but why are you being so weird?" She asked while looking so confused as if nothing happened and I wasn't gone for 3-4 days. I then noticed that time never changed here. It's like it was all a dream but I know it wasn't. "It's nothing I just really miss Hugging you" I responded. I was so glad I was finally home and not in the middle of a war.

The end.